

What is claimed is:

1. A method for use by a relay server in enabling a user in one domain to perform a management operation on a group stored in another domain via a message according to a protocol used in the user domain and bearing a group command according to a group operation protocol used in the user domain, but indicating a group of a service provided in the other domain, the method comprising:

10 a step (22) of identifying the group command in the message; and

15 a step (24) of determining whether the group command is mappable to one or more group commands in the other domain providing an approximate equivalent to the group operation provided by the identified group command, by comparing the identified group command with a predetermined list (11e) of mappable group commands indicating, for each mappable group command in the one domain, one or more group commands in the other domain.

20 2. A method as in claim 1, further comprising: a step (25), performed if the identified group command is determined to be mappable to the other domain, of translating the message so as to be in a form used in the other domain, and substituting for the identified group command the one or more group commands in the other domain to which the identified group command is 25 mappable, according to the predetermined list of mappable group commands.

30 3. A method as in claim 1, further comprising: a step (23) of determining whether the group indicated in the message in the other domain is used by a service that is approximately equivalent to a service in the domain of the user, by comparing the service indicated in the message with a predetermined list

(11f) of approximately equivalent services.

4. A method as in claim 3, further comprising: a step (28), performed if the service is found to be included in the list (11f) of approximately equivalent services and so has an approximate equivalent in the user domain using a corresponding type of group but also determining that the group command is not mappable, of copying to a group server hosting the corresponding type of group in the user domain the group in the other domain, followed by a step of binding the group to the approximately equivalent service in the user domain.

5. A method as in claim 3, further comprising: a step (27), performed if the service is not found to be included in the list (11f) of approximately equivalent services, of copying to a group server in the user domain the group in the other domain, followed by a step of notifying the user that the group is available in the user domain but user action is required to bind the group to a service.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein one of the domains is 3GPP IMS, and the other is WV, and further wherein, if the message originates from the 3GPP IMS domain, the group command is provided in a message according to one or another addressing protocol including SIP, PRES, IM, and if the message originates from the WV domain, the group command is provided in a message according to one or another addressing protocol including CSP.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein, if the message originates from the 3GPP IMS domain, the group command is provided according to XCAP, and if the message originates from the 3GPP WV domain, the group command is provided according to the CSP protocol.

8. A computer program product comprising: a computer readable

storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor in a server, with said computer program code characterized in that it includes instructions for performing the steps of the method of claim 1.

5       9. An apparatus for use with a relay server in enabling a user in one domain to perform a management operation on a group stored in another domain via a message according to a protocol used in the user domain and bearing a group command according to a group operation protocol used in the user domain, but  
10      indicating a group of a service provided in the other domain, the apparatus comprising:

means (22) for identifying the group command in the message; and

means (24) for determining whether the group command is  
15      mappable to one or more group commands in the other domain providing an approximate equivalent to the group operation provided by the identified group command, by comparing the identified group command with a predetermined list (11e) of  
20      mappable group commands indicating, for each mappable group command in the one domain, one or more group commands in the other domain.

10. An apparatus as in claim 9, further comprising: means (25), for use if the identified group command is determined to be mappable to the other domain, for translating the message so as  
25      to be in a form used in the other domain, and substituting for the identified group command the one or more group commands in the other domain to which the identified group command is mappable, according to the predetermined list of mappable group commands.

30      11. An apparatus as in claim 9, further comprising: means (23) for determining whether the group indicated in the message in

the other domain is used by a service that is approximately equivalent to a service in the domain of the user, by comparing the service indicated in the message with a predetermined list (11f) of approximately equivalent services.

5       12. An apparatus as in claim 11, further comprising: means (28), for use if the service is found to be included in the list (11f) of approximately equivalent services and so has an approximate equivalent in the user domain using a corresponding type of group but also determining that the group command is not  
10 mappable, for copying to a group server hosting the corresponding type of group in the user domain the group in the other domain, followed by binding the group to the approximately equivalent service in the user domain.

15       13. An apparatus as in claim 11, further comprising: means (27), for use if the service is not found to be included in the list (11f) of approximately equivalent services, for copying to a group server in the user domain the group in the other domain, followed by notifying the user that the group is available in the user domain but user action is required to bind the group to  
20 a service.

25       14. An apparatus as in claim 9, wherein one of the domains is 3GPP IMS, and the other is WV, and further wherein, if the message originates from the 3GPP IMS domain, the group command is provided in a message according to one or another addressing protocol including SIP, PRES, IM, and if the message originates from the WV domain, the group command is provided in a message according to one or another addressing protocol including CSP.

30       15. An apparatus as in claim 14, wherein, if the message originates from the 3GPP IMS domain, the group command is provided according to XCAP, and if the message originates from the 3GPP WV domain, the group command is provided according to

the CSP protocol.

16. A system, comprising a relay server (11) including an apparatus as in claim 9, also comprising a UE device (15) for use in one of the domains, and further comprising a routing server (18 19) for examining the message and determining whether the message is directed to the other domain, and if so, for routing the message to the relay server (11) .

5 17. A UE device (15), comprising:

means (15a) for providing a group command for managing a group in a destination domain different from the domain to which the UE device is subscribed but using a group command protocol prescribed for use in the domain to which the UE device is subscribed, the group command including information sufficient to identify the group in the destination domain;

15 and

means (15), responsive to a notice indicating the group command is not mappable to an approximately equivalent command in a destination domain, for providing in response a notice of same for display to a user, the notice indicating that the group information cannot be mapped properly because at least some of the group information is incompatible with group information in the destination domain.